

not know Him. We must come to Him and lay our hearts alongside of His infinite heart of love, or we shall never know Him. So long as we look at Him through the atmosphere of selfishness or pride or worldliness we cannot know Him. But when we come into the pure atmosphere of love we shall know Him, because we shall be like Him.

#### Weak Things

Christian Advocate.

The weapons of our warfare are not carnal. There were warriors in the time of our Saviour, but He passed them by, and chose men who were utterly ignorant of military affairs. He had no use for carnal weapons in the campaign which He had inaugurated. More than once the Christian Church has degenerated into a worldly institution and resorted to worldly weapons, but the result has always been disastrous. Outward victories have been won at the expense of faith in God. Martin Luther was a wise man, as well as a brave and good man. His wisdom was never more conspicuously displayed than it was when he refused the military protection which the Elector of Saxony offered him. He was not afraid to trust God. He understood that the truth needed no carnal weapons of defense. He presents a grand spectacle standing up boldly before a frowning and threatening world, with no weapon in his hand but the word of God.

The sword has its place, but it is in the hand of the magistrate and the soldier, not in the hand of the apostle of Christ. It is not required for the propagation of the faith of Christ. Swords, battle axes, artillery, and battleships have their uses, perhaps, but it is a temporary use. Besides, these things are not so mighty as men think. There is more power for good in one solid truth than in all the battleships on all the seas. There is more help for the world in a little love and sympathy and kindness than in all the artillery in America. Diplomacy is not so powerful as men think. A little straightforward righteousness and sincerity will do more for a nation than all the wiles of the most skillful diplomat in the world. Deceit and fraud have played a large part in human history; anger and hate have been regarded as manly and mighty; but we know that they are puerile and weak.

God hath chosen the weak things, but He has not excluded the strong. Brilliant talents and vast learning do not disqualify on for effective service in the kingdom of God. Saul of Tarsus was a man of superior talents and culture, but these did not render him unacceptable or useless. On the contrary, they added to his power for good. An ignorant man may do a world of good if he be a good man, but he could do far more good if he were educated. God is not partial to ignorance. He does not exclude any. All are called, and all are welcome. But the great men are not willing to become little children and sit at the feet of the Nazarene. They have their own kingdom to look after, their own im-

mense interests to protect. They will espouse the cause of Christ just so far as it is popular, so far as public sentiment will support them in so doing, and no farther. When the victory has been achieved by the obscure and lowly the great people will rush to the front. When it is safe to do so they will fall into line with every good cause.

Christ has no need to call the highest classes, for He can take the lowest and make them highest. He can take the poor and make them rich; the foolish, and make them wise; the weak, and make them strong; the baseborn, and make them highborn. He does not ask what the pedigree of a man is, but what is his character. He does not require that he shall be born a prince, but that he shall be born of the Spirit. He is not concerned about nobility, for He is the Son of God, and to those that believe on Him He gives power to become sons of God. They may not trace their pedigree back to a king, but they trace it immediately to the King of kings. According to the world's standard they are weak, but according to the true standard they are mighty. The world considers them worthless, but in the eyes of God one of them is worth ten thousand. They are His chosen ones.

### The Mission Field

#### Chicago Mission

I feel that I must tell the friends of our mission of our splendid Easter service. The resurrection was celebrated with beautiful spirit by our Sunday-school children. They had a short program of songs and a few recitations, followed by a brief address by the pastor, and then we deposited our missionary barrels. Altho only a week's notice was given and the children had so short a time, yet we had almost six dollars in the barrels. It was suggested by the members of the mission that we put out the missionary barrels in good time for the children's days service, so we put them out last Sunday, and we expect a better offering on children's day. The Sunday school is prospering. Last Sunday the classes chose mottoes, which will be given to each class printed in gold letters on white enameled boards. This work is done gratis. Several of our members have also had some beautiful pictures framed and placed in the mission, which are a pleasure to the eye, and also educative as well.

I am pleased to find our members much interested in good books, of a religious nature. I have constantly loaned out not less than twenty dollars from my library, all the time. They read them and then return them and take others. They will make strong members. We should have more literature in book form. We need good books, on Bible exegesis, also live devotional books. Most of our writers grow too dogmatic in their treatment of doctrine, which has a tendency to tire any one that may not at first be in sympathy with the writer. I could use

good books to circulate among those who really wish to learn. If ever I am able to run "ideal" mission it will have connected with it a circulating library, and one person will be put solely in charge of it.

#### GIVING

Our little band is getting interested in the subject of giving. So are the children. When we come to look at the subject in its broadest aspect, every good thing on the earth is the fruit of some one's generosity: the church, the school, the library, all are gifts from the heart of those who love their fellow-men. Blessed teaching, "more blessed to give than to receive." I recently had a letter from Nappanee, Ind., saying that they opened their missionary barrels on Easter Sunday and they had in them \$13.20, and then the Sunday-school gave a collection of \$1.55, making altogether \$14.75. That was good, and Nappanee is not a large church either. I copy a beautiful little letter from three little friends of missions:

Eaton, Ind., Mr. J. O. Talley:—Find enclosed sixty cents, which we have collected in our mission barrels that you left at Maple Grove when you and Brother Bowman held Bible meetings there.

EMIL RENCH,  
IVA RENCH,  
OMER RENCH.

I assure you, my little friends, that I remember you and I thank you very much that you have remembered our work in the city. I wish you could come to some of our meetings, I know you would enjoy them.

Owing to so much work here I am behind with my correspondence and my outside work, some of which is calling earnestly for me to come and preach for them, but be patient and I will soon catch up again. Sister Gibbons' sickness has disabled our work here and put much more on me, but we are getting on nicely. Sister Gibbons is improving and will soon be at her post again ready for duty, and then I will take up the outside work. Astoria mission has written me that they have secured the use of a church building and organized a Sunday-school, and are ready for preaching as soon as I come. Auburn, Ill., are arranging a short series of meetings for me as soon as I can get there. Stanley, Wisconsin, is ready for meetings. New Virginia, Iowa, is on my list for meetings this spring or summer. I will arrange the dates soon. The brethren and sisters at Astoria, Ill., just work on even if they do not have a pastor. One more ready to be baptized there as soon as I can get there. Brother Fits' ministry of quiet is effectual. That is right.

#### CITY WORK

City work is quite different from church work in the country, in that it requires so much personal work. In fact all our work is personal. Direct contact is the more effectual. There is no place where *real Christian living* counts for as much as in the city. It is our lives that do the effectual preaching. While this is true everywhere, conditions of society in the cities, emphasize it. The la-